

## **Annex B Summary of changes and clarifications since HEIFES10**

### **Changes**

1. 'Advance notification of changes to HESES and HEIFES for 2011-12' (HEFCE Circular letter 17/2011) notified institutions of a number of changes intended for implementation in HEIFES11. The changes to be implemented in HEIFES11 are:

a. The way students on non-standard years of study are recorded (those that span two academic years) is changing for Tables 1 to 5. In HEIFES10, these were recorded in the academic year in which the year of study ended. From HEIFES11 they should be recorded in the academic year in which the year of study begins. This change will make the recording of such students more consistent with Table 6. See Annex A of Circular letter 17/2011, paragraphs 5 to 6 of Annex D and paragraphs 10 to 17 of Annex H.

b. We will no longer disaggregate HEFCE-fundable students between HEFCE-funded and independently funded. The latter category has always been an optional one within HEFCE-fundable, used by colleges to help them avoid moving below the tolerance band. From 2010-11, we have suspended the conditions that apply to the lower limit of the tolerance band in order to accommodate student places allocated through the University Modernisation Fund. From 2012-13, we intend to calculate teaching funding, including for the phase-out of mainstream grant, for all HEFCE-fundable students. We do not therefore see a need to collect information separately on HEFCE-funded and independently funded students.

c. Table 4 (the Home and EU fees table) is to be disaggregated between each of the different price groups. This will enable us to calculate more accurately average rates of 2011-12 HEFCE funding for each 'funding cell' (that is, a combination of price group x mode of study x level of study). See Circular letter 17/2011 and paragraphs 17 to 21 of Annex D.

d. A new Table 7 asks colleges to forecast the numbers of HEFCE-fundable countable years and full-time equivalents (FTEs) they expect to have in 2012-13 by price group, mode and level, and disaggregated between:

- students that would be treated as continuing under the current fees and funding regime, and
- students that would be treated for funding purposes as subject to the new fees and funding regime being introduced from 2012-13.

See Annex A of Circular letter 17/2011 and paragraphs 37 to 44 of Annex D and Annex Q.

2. Since publication of Circular letter 17/2011, we have made two further changes to the guidance and tables for HEIFES11:

a. We have revised the definition of an end-on course, which is used in determining whether a student is treated as coming under the old or new fee and funding regime. This change has been made to ensure greater consistency with the Education (Student Support) Regulations 2011 (statutory instrument 2011 No. 1986). The revised definition is provided in Annex Q, paragraphs 11 and 12.

b. Table 6 now requires a disaggregation of the full-time undergraduate numbers that count towards the 2011-12 student number control according to whether or not students have, or are estimated to have, qualification and grade combinations on entry equivalent to AAB at A-level or higher:

i. 'Teaching funding and student number controls: consultation on changes to be implemented in 2012-13' (HEFCE 2011/20) sets out our proposals for implementing the Government's policy that students entering with the equivalent of AAB grades at A-level or higher (the 'AAB+ equivalent' population), should be excluded from the student number control from 2012-13.

ii. The limitations of the individualised learner record (ILR) mean that, in the short term, we will generally be unable to identify satisfactorily whether many students at further education colleges (FECs) fall within the AAB+ equivalent population. Therefore we are asking colleges to disaggregate the undergraduates reported on HEIFES11 Table 6 according to whether or not they fall within the AAB+ equivalent population; these data will be used in setting the student number control for 2012-13. Initial guidance on the AAB+ equivalent population is given in paragraphs 35 and 36 of Annex D. A full list of AAB+ equivalences will be published as a HEIFES FAQ no later than 27 October 2011. We will also notify HEIFES contacts when it is available.

3. As announced in paragraph 15 of 'Advance notification of changes to HESES and HEIFES for 2010-11 and later years' (HEFCE Circular letter 10/2010), foundation years and other provision commonly referred to as 'Level 0', will be classed as part of a 'recognised HE course' only if they are an integrated part of a recognised HE qualification, such that:

- students are already registered for the recognised HE qualification at the same institution, and
- progression to the recognised HE qualification is guaranteed, subject to satisfactory completion of the foundation year.

See paragraphs 6 and 7 of Annex G.

4. The guidance on how to treat students who join an instance at a date different to the usual start date and who aim to catch up to the rest of the cohort has changed. In previous years, these students were treated as if they had joined with the rest of the cohort, where the start date of the year of programme of study is the same as that for the rest of the cohort. This has been modified so that the start date for the year of

programme of study is the actual date that the student started. See Example 3, paragraph 16 of Annex H.

5. In previous HEIFES surveys, Learndirect subject codes that begin with XA were entirely assigned to price group C. Following a review of Learndirect subject codes that begin with X, Learndirect subject codes beginning with XA should now be assigned to price group B with the exception of XA.13 (Engineering management) and XA.32 (Technology management). See Annex L, specifically the tables that map Learndirect subject codes to price groups.

### **Clarifications**

6. We have clarified that students who switch mode from full-time to part-time, as defined in paragraph 10 of Annex M, should have their completion status determined with reference to their revised study intentions. See paragraph 3 of Annex I.

### **Process changes**

7. We stated last year that we intended to create future HEIFES survey workbooks (including HEIFES11) in Excel 2007 format (file extension .xlsx). This will, however, not be possible in time for the HEIFES11 survey, and therefore we will continue to use Excel 2003 format (file extension .xls).